

Tiger tiger

Reflection on Miner's Article

Starting off, can I reflect on Miner's article and how it is quite humorous and flips American practices, like hygiene and dental care, into bizarre rituals by describing them through an outsider's lens.

For instance, he talks about Americans' obsession with cleanliness—frequent handwashing or specialized soaps—almost comical as if it's were a purification process.

Then there's the regular visit to the "holy-mouth-man," or the dentist, which, to an outsider, might seem a shaman, as if Americans are on a relentless quest for a perfect smile.

By using his anthropological tone, Miner sheds light on how routine rituals might appear odd indeed. From an outside perspective, challenging readers to rethink what we consider normal and highlighting how deeply cultural values influence our everyday practices.

Second Section: Thanksgiving and Scooby-Doo as Symbols of Tribal Connection

Next, I'll bring in Thanksgiving as an example of American cultural ritual. It's more than just a meal—it's a shared time to give thanks, gather with family, and celebrate community values.

Thanksgiving reflects ideals like gratitude, unity, and sharing, showing us how culture emphasizes the importance of togetherness.

Then let's bridge this with the influence of media, specifically shows like Scooby-Doo, which also create a tribal sense of connection.

Just as Thanksgiving connects people physically, Scooby-Doo and other nostalgic media create a virtual gathering place where people of different backgrounds find common ground.

Media, much like these traditional gatherings, serves as a cultural glue that fosters a "tribal" sense of connection, especially in a country as diverse as America.

Third Section: American Culture through the Lens of Scooby-Doo

Now, looking at American culture through Scooby-Doo, I'd like to talk about how it seems almost ritualistic in itself. Outsiders might find it strange—there's a recurring theme of mystery-solving, group dynamics (each character having a distinct role), and the iconic "Scooby Snacks" as a motivational reward. These are specific "rituals" that are valuable for fans and carry symbolic value. Beyond that, there's a clever marketing angle—Scooby-Doo has become a cultural icon with an empire of merchandise and spinoffs. This show creates a shared pop culture reference, where its themes of teamwork, loyalty, and curiosity resonate with viewers. It's almost like a social ecosystem, offering a sense of nostalgia and familiarity that fosters connection across different generations.

Fourth Section: Evaluation of Global Connectivity through Media

In the last part, let's evaluate whether this global media connectivity is beneficial or detrimental. Shows like Scooby-Doo can create shared memories, bridging divides by giving people common symbols and narratives. Just like Thanksgiving centers around values of family and community, media franchises such as Scooby-Doo do something similar by connecting people around shared experiences. Quoting Jenkins from twenty twenty, "According to Jenkins, media franchises like Scooby-Doo create participatory cultures, where fans actively engage and connect, fostering shared identity and community across diverse backgrounds." Both Thanksgiving and media bring people together around rituals that remind them of their shared values, helping to build a "tribe" in a broader, more global sense. So yes I believe that it was an benefit to change but there are not many shows and franchises quite like this Scooby Doo.

Thanks, Christopher